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Staff of East Asia and Pacific region Fulbright commissions and US diplomatic posts, the US Department of State and programme partner agencies at the regional meeting in Taiwan in March (photo: Fulbright Taiwan)

Fulbright staff share ideas at regional meeting

Executive Directors and staff of nine Fulbright commissions and 17 US diplomatic posts in the East Asia and Pacific region gathered in Taiwan in March to share information and experiences at a regional meeting. Fulbright New Zealand's executive director Mele Wendt was one of 47 attendees at the three day meeting hosted by the Foundation for Scholarly Exchange (Fulbright Taiwan).

At the meeting, attendees discussed issues including US diplomatic efforts in the Asia-Pacific region and trends in US and regional higher education that are impacting the Fulbright programme. Programme partners from US agencies the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) talked about trends in US student and scholar competitions, and recruitment strategies for non-US students and scholars.

Mele Wendt, executive director of Fulbright New Zealand, was a panellist speaker in two sessions. Discussing best practices for hosting US students and scholars, she talked about predeparture information provided to grantees and an alumni buddy system to establish useful relationships between peers. She highlighted our comprehensive welcome orientation for American students and scholars as they arrive in New Zealand at the beginning of the academic year, and other enrichment activities during the grant year.

In another session, Mele spoke about the effective management of Fulbright commissions, which requires a high-performing Board, clear goals and strategies, and great staff. She discussed, in particular, Fulbright New Zealand's strategic and operational planning, and our performance and development system for staff.

Other sessions covered fundraising, demonstrating

the impact of the Fulbright programme and innovative approaches to increasing student mobility.

Mele Wendt says regional meetings such as these are a great way to share best practices with fellow Fulbright commissions and the diplomatic staff who run Fulbright programmes in other countries. "As one of the longest-running commissions in the world, we have plenty to share, but I always bring home new ideas as well. Executive Directors of the region's commissions meet annually, but this bigger meeting was an opportunity to share ideas and issues with staff of smaller programmes in countries like Fiji and Timor Leste."

While in Taiwan, attendees at the meeting were hosted at receptions by Taiwan's Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education, and given opportunities to visit sites including the National Palace Museum and Taipei 101, which was the world's tallest building until 2010. ▶



Fulbright New Zealand executive director Mele Wendt (left) with New Zealand's contribution to a poster display detailing different countries' Fulbright programmes

Editorial

From the desk of the Executive Director



Mele Wendt, Executive Director

Tēnā koutou, talofa lava and warm Fulbright greetings.

It has been another busy start to the year for us all at Fulbright New Zealand, with our February orientation for US grantees, my visit to Taiwan for a regional Fulbright meeting and the formal launch of our new Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching programme, all of which you can read about in this newsletter.

Our Board held its first meeting of the year in March, at which Helen Anderson was re-elected as Chairperson, Harlene Hayne as Deputy Chairperson and Mark Fitz-Gerald as Treasurer. It is great to have such stability in our Board, particularly given the wonderful governance we have enjoyed in recent years.

In June we will be holding our big annual receptions for alumni and stakeholders in Washington, DC and Wellington. We hope to see many of you there.

We were so thrilled with the support shown by alumni during our 65th anniversary year in 2013, and do hope it continues. Thanks to the generosity of alumni we have raised almost \$100,000 towards the endowment fund we established last year. Our dream is to build this endowment to a value of NZ\$1.1 million, so that the interest earned will pay for an additional Fulbright

graduate award annually, *in perpetuity*.

There has never been a more important time for alumni to give back to the Fulbright programme financially. Our base grant from the US government has been reduced in each of the past two years due to budget sequestration, to a point where this year we've had to reduce the number of awards on offer.

There are many ways you can choose to give, including one-off donations, pledging to give in regular instalments (including through New Zealand's payroll giving system for employees), or bequeathing to us in your will. We have a large number of living alumni who have benefited directly from a life-changing Fulbright exchange experience. If the majority of you gave even a little whenever you were able, it would make a huge difference to our ability to maintain and grow our award numbers, allowing future generations to follow in your footsteps. Please consider donating, even if you did so last year. We appreciate your generosity.

Hei konei rā, ia manuia and warm regards,

Important Dates

Fulbright New Zealand Outreach Tour 2014

University, polytechnic and wānanga campuses nationwide throughout May

Fulbright New Zealand's educational advising team is visiting campuses nationwide on an Outreach Tour to inform students and academic staff about educational opportunities in the US and the range of prestigious Fulbright exchange awards which can help you get there.

See www.fulbright.org.nz/events for details

May

23 Fulbright Seminar: Beth Leonard – Reclaiming Indigenous Spaces in Higher Education

12:30-1:30pm, Fulbright New Zealand boardroom, Level 8, 120 Featherston Street, Wellington. RSVP to info@fulbright.org.nz / (04) 472 2065

June

1 Fulbright-Platinum Triangle Awards in Business applications close

6 Fulbright New Zealand/Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowships Alumni Reception

6:00-8:00pm, New Zealand Ambassador's residence, 27 Observatory Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20008. RSVP to rsvp@nzemb.org by 30 May

24 Fulbright New Zealand Awards Ceremony and Alumni Reception

5:30-7:30pm, Beehive Banquet Hall, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. RSVP to info@fulbright.org.nz / (04) 472 2065 by 17 June

27 Fulbright Seminar Speaker TBC. 12:30-1:30pm, Fulbright New Zealand boardroom, Level 8, 120 Featherston Street, Wellington

July

25 Fulbright Seminar Speaker TBC. 12:30-1:30pm, Fulbright New Zealand boardroom, Level 8, 120 Featherston Street, Wellington

August

1 Fulbright Science and Innovation Graduate Awards applications close

Fulbright-EQC Graduate Award in Natural Disaster Research applications close

Fulbright-Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga Graduate Award applications close

Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Awards applications close

Fulbright-Wallace Arts Trust Award applications close

Fulbright New Zealand Travel Awards applications close

Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Travel Awards in Indigenous Development applications close

Fulbright Specialist Awards applications close

Fulbright US Scholar Awards applications close

See www.fulbright.org.nz or contact the Fulbright New Zealand office for more details

Fulbright New Zealand Quarterly is published in February, May, August and November by:

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We welcome your letters and articles. Any material submitted may be edited for publication. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of material in this newsletter, Fulbright New Zealand does not accept liability for any errors or omissions. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Fulbright New Zealand.

Top education officials launch teaching awards

Visiting US Secretary of Education, Hon Arne Duncan, and New Zealand's Minister of Education, Hon Hekia Parata, officially launched the new Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching programme at parliament in March. The first two New Zealand grantees in the bilateral programme, Fiona Jeffries from Paraparaumu College and Su Mukund from Papatoetoe High School, were presented certificates by the two countries' top-ranking education officials.

Announcing details of the new awards programme at a press conference at parliament, Minister Parata said it would further deepen the education relationship between New Zealand and the United States. "This agreement reflects our ongoing commitment to raising the status of the teaching profession through cooperation and collaboration," she said. "It is a great opportunity for teachers from both New Zealand and US education systems to share their successes and their challenges, and learn from each other."

Secretary Duncan noted that due to overwhelming demand ten American teachers had been awarded in the first application round instead of the proposed five. He said that the new programme "will give our educators a chance to see firsthand what's working in New Zealand's classrooms and return home with new strategies for ensuring all students graduate ready for college and careers."

The two New Zealand recipients of Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching will participate in an intensive four-month professional development programme in the US from August-December 2014,

alongside teachers from 10 other countries. In addition, each will complete a capstone research project.

Fiona Jeffries intends to research the use of digital technology in English classrooms in the US. Fiona has a particular interest in the use of digital technology for the development of literacy skills for low-progress learners. Her research will inform her school's introduction of a 'Bring Your Own Devices' policy next year.

Su Mukund will research how professional learning development of teachers can help improve the engagement and academic success of secondary school science students from diverse cultural backgrounds. ➤



left-right: Hon Arne Duncan, Su Mukund, Fiona Jeffries, Fulbright New Zealand chairperson Helen Anderson and Hon Hekia Parata

Orientation programme welcomes US grantees

In February 2014, Fulbright New Zealand welcomed 11 Fulbright US Graduate Students, four Fulbright US Scholars, three Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellows in Public Policy and their families to New Zealand with a week-long orientation programme in Wellington. The various exchange grantees will study, research or teach in New Zealand over 3-12 months.

As is usual for our orientation programme, this year's grantees were welcomed with a pōwhiri and noho marae (overnight stay) at Waiwhetū Marae in Lower Hutt. As a rare treat, they were invited to be the audience for a special performance by local kapa haka group Ngā Uri ō Tamarau, who had just qualified to compete in the national kapa haka championships, Te Matatini, in March 2015.

Throughout the orientation week, a range of expert speakers including distinguished Fulbright alumni Jock Phillips, Sir Tamati Reedy, Kennedy Graham and Elizabeth McLeay were involved in a programme of seminars, cultural experiences and field trips designed to introduce the incoming grantees to New Zealand, Māori and Pacific history, culture and language, as well as the country's rich natural history and unique flora and fauna.

In addition, grantees and their families were home-hosted by local Fulbright alumni for dinner and an overnight stay, activities organised by the Fulbright New Zealand Alumni Association to connect grantees with the valuable support network that the broader Fulbright community in New Zealand will provide throughout their exchange. ➤



above: Grantees are treated to a performance by kapa haka group Ngā Uri ō Tamarau at Waiwhetū marae; below: Fulbright alumnus Kennedy Graham talks about his experiences as a New Zealand member of parliament



Alumni Association

**FULBRIGHT
NEW ZEALAND
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**



**TE WHAKAWHITINGA
AOTEAROA-AMERIKA**

Alumni Association update

The Obama Administration's 2015 budget proposal had some good news and some really bad news for educational and cultural exchange programmes. It called for a 1.6% increase in the overall exchange budget and proposed laudable new initiatives in Africa and Asia, but these new programmes would be funded at the expense of the Fulbright programme which was designated an unprecedented 13% cut to its \$234 million budget. If you haven't yet signed the online petition asking Congress to restore and maintain funding for the Fulbright programme, please do so at www.savefulbright.org

Here in New Zealand, the Association has enjoyed welcoming new grantees to the Fulbright family with gatherings across the country.

In the second half of the year, esteemed alumnus Sir Tamati Reedy will be touring universities to give Fulbright

Lectures entitled 'Ngā Wai Whakaata o Hine-kauorohia: The Reflecting Waters of Hine-kauorohia.' Sir Tamati says "The Māori goddess Hine-kauorohia allows us to look into the stillness of her reflecting waters to see the past with clarity, gaze at ourselves in the shimmering present, and with a finger-touch, fathom a ruffled glimpse of the future." He will explore past and present economic, socio-cultural, educational and political relationships under the Treaty of Waitangi, and the place of Māori in the future of Aotearoa New Zealand. Full details of the lectures will be circulated once confirmed.

We welcome you to share ideas and thought leadership with members on our Facebook page found at www.facebook.com/fnzaa

BWalters

Brian Walters, FNZAA Chairperson

In Brief



above: Matt Hoffman (photo: NIDCR);
below: Edwina Pio



Grantee and Alumni News

Fulbright grantee **Janna van Hasselt** (2012 NZ Graduate Student) produced a pair of "exuberant and invigorating" silkscreen prints in February to raise funds towards the costs of her last semester of study for a Master of Fine Arts degree at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. The limited edition prints, titled 'Punch' and 'Crunch' are available to order from Janna's website – www.janna.co.nz – priced at \$75 for one or \$125 for both. Please consider buying one or both prints to support Janna through "one last semester of casting, firing, glazing, pulling, drawing, pouring, carrying, planning, critiquing, defending and exhibiting" in the US.



Janna van Hasselt's fundraising prints 'Punch' and 'Crunch'

Fulbright alumnus **Matt Hoffman** (1989 NZ Graduate Student) was honoured as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at its annual meeting in Chicago in February, having been elected by his peers "for outstanding contributions to the advancement of sciences in the field of salivary gland biology." Matt completed his PhD in microbiology and immunology on a Fulbright exchange to the University of Rochester in New York, and has worked for the National Institutes of Health ever since. He is now a senior investigator at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research's Laboratory of Cell and Developmental Biology in Bethesda, Maryland.

New Zealand art/experimental film website CIRCUIT Artist Film and Video Aotearoa New Zealand held a special 'Julian Dashper week' in March, highlighting a number of videos they had recently posted online of Fulbright alumnus **Julian Dashper** (2001 NZ Research Scholar) talking about his art. Included is 'Untitled (Interviews) 2001-02', Julian's longest video work at

3.5 hours duration. The work comprises a series of interviews recorded during Julian's Fulbright exchange to the US, in which he discusses numerous topics including travelling in the United States, his research interests, artist archives, changing seasons and the events of September 11th. See www.circuit.org.nz/artist/julian-dashper for this and other videos.

Fulbright alumnus **Gareth Farr** (1991 NZ Graduate Student/2010 NZ Travel Award) was honoured as a 2014 Distinguished Alumnus by the University of Auckland in March. One of six distinguished alumni recognised this year, Gareth graduated from the University of Auckland with a Bachelor of Music degree and a Diploma of Music in 1991, before completing his Master of Music degree at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York on a Fulbright exchange. Also in March, Gareth's first piano concerto was premiered by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and Australian pianist Tony Lee. His next composition will be for mezzo soprano and double string orchestra, and will be performed at the 2014 Edinburgh International Festival to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I.

Work & Worship: Religious diversity at workplaces in New Zealand (AUT University Faculty of Business and Law), a new book by Fulbright alumna **Edwina Pio** (2013 NZ Travel Award), will be launched by New Zealand's Race Relations Commissioner, Dame Susan Devoy, in May. It focuses on how organisations in New Zealand manage the adherents of minority religions including Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Indian Christians and Zoroastrians. The book seeks to encourage business organisations to engage in 'difficult' conversations that are vital for today's changing workforce, makes recommendations for managers, and presents organisational perspectives of both employers and employees. ►

Alumni, please keep us up-to-date with your news and achievements, by email to andy@fulbright.org.nz

In Memoriam

We are saddened by the recent passing of the following alumnus:

David Beaglehole, 1981 NZ Research Scholar
Bill Toomath, 1952 NZ Graduate Award ►

Photographing in the shepherd's realm

Andrew Fladeboe from Providence, Rhode Island is one of 11 American students who are studying or researching in New Zealand this year as recipients of Fulbright US graduate awards. He is photographing working dogs and their relationships with humans for a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with Honours from the University of Canterbury. Since his arrival in February, Andrew's project has taken him on sheep and cattle musters, dog trials, search and rescue training exercises and pig hunting expeditions around the South Island.

My Fulbright experience began in Cromwell, the furthest point from the sea in New Zealand. I spent 10 days working on a merino sheep station familiarizing myself with their practices and how they use their dogs to guide the sheep. They really put me to work, and while I was still getting over jet lag I was already pulling out Scottish thistle and learning just how long a day is for the average Kiwi farmer. Despite the hard work, I learned to love the long days in the fresh air and see just how instrumental a team of dogs is to practically any sheep farm.

After this "farm boot camp", I bought a car and have been moving along to different locations trying to do as much photographing as I can before winter. My first stops were a few stations in the Hanmer Springs area. I took part in a muster that moved 3,000 ewes over a mountain and down a valley through a dense fog. Using whistled commands, the shepherd was able to situate the dogs to gather the sheep from over 100 yards away and move them along over the rough terrain. It was incredible seeing these dogs work tirelessly for their masters with an intelligence that shows the ability to think ahead and solve problems.

I often get asked why I would travel to the other side of the world to photograph dogs working on farms. I think the answer lies in the fact that working dogs serve a distinctive and crucial role economically, historically, and culturally in New Zealand. The working dogs in New Zealand were vital to the development of the country. New Zealand achieved its early wealth through the sheep industry which dominated the economy from 1856 to the 1980s. With the landscape of New Zealand offering vast expanses of territory and steep terrain, it would be impossible to farm sheep without the help of dogs.

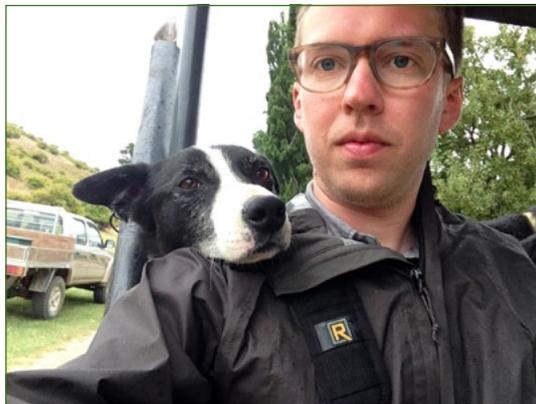
The traditional border collie and the huntaway are the two main types of sheep dogs here. The huntaway is a much bigger dog with a loud bark used to drive sheep up hills or get them moving in tight enclosures. They are unique to New Zealand and I'm already thinking of ways I could bring one back to the States with me. When I do my traditional portraits of the dogs, huntaways are often hams for the camera and show off. They're much easier to photograph than the shy and nervous collies.

An interview with me was published in the *Otago Daily Times* and I was subsequently invited to LANDSAR Search and Rescue dog training at the famous Mesopotamia Station. I spent a weekend with ten trainers and their dogs observing tracking exercises and attending lectures in the shearers' hut which we all slept in. It was an enlightening experience to see how these well-trained dogs can track down scents which are hours old, and save lives. It has shifted my focus to all types of working dogs, rather than just the traditional farm ones.

I made my way to Omarama to visit a sheep dog trial legend who has won multiple New Zealand championships. I ended up staying there for a week and met an up-and-coming rodeo star and photographed her dog at the clay cliffs used for shooting modern Westerns. I've attended police dog training in Invercargill and now have friends, both human and canine, in the police force.

Perhaps the most interesting experience was going pig hunting by moonlight in Fiordland. Waking up at 3:00am to go hiking through dense bush for 10km with a pack of dogs is something I will never forget, as well as falling into the river ten minutes into the hunt. Most recently, I spent two weeks at a sheep and beef farm on Slope Point, the southern-most point of the South Island. It was truly special being able to look out across the endless ocean to the South while bouncing along in a little 4x4 with three dogs guiding stubborn bulls over rolling fields of lush grass.

While I have not done a lot of trekking or done many of the tourist sites, travelling the country this way has been a unique opportunity to explore a side of New Zealand that most people don't get to see. It hasn't been easy. Travelling alone and constantly moving from place to place is tiring. Sometimes I don't know where I will be a week ahead, but it's all part of the adventure. I have met so many wonderful people travelling this way and the generosity of the dog-loving people who have opened their homes to me has been incredible. I have already made life-long friends and photographed the most amazing dogs I have ever met. None of this would have been possible without the support of the Fulbright programme. ►



above: Andrew Fladeboe with a New Zealand sheep dog;
below: Andrew's portrait of Ned the huntaway from Hiburn farm, Cromwell



To see more of Andrew's photographs of New Zealand working dogs, and read regular updates about his exchange experience, visit his blog at www.theshepherdsrealm.com

Grantee Voice



Andrew Fladeboe

"While I have not done a lot of trekking or done many of the tourist sites, travelling the country this way has been a unique opportunity to explore a side of New Zealand that most people don't get to see."

Awarded

Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching for New Zealand Teachers

Fiona Jeffries from Paraparaumu College will participate in a four-month professional development programme in the US, and complete a capstone research project on the use of digital technology in English classrooms in the US.

Su Mukund from Papatoetoe High School will participate in a four-month professional development programme in the US, and complete a capstone research project on professional learning development for teachers of secondary school science students from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Fulbright US Graduate Awards

Sophie Burke from Belmont, Massachusetts will research the effects of peat quality on methane and carbon dioxide flux in New Zealand peatlands, at the University of Waikato.

Haley Farrar from Denver, Colorado will research restorative justice strategies in New Zealand's criminal justice system, at Victoria University of Wellington.

Nicholas Homler from Mahwah, New Jersey will film a documentary about independent cinemas in New Zealand, at the University of Waikato.

Ryan Metzler from Los Angeles, California will film a documentary about the intersection of kaupapa Māori ethnographic research and contemporary Māori artists, at the University of Otago.

Jason Preble from Kaneohe, Hawai'i will research acoustic monitoring of native bird populations around the Zealandia eco-sanctuary, at Victoria University of Wellington.

Rachel Scholes from Olympia, Washington will research pesticide contamination of fish in the Clutha River, at the University of Otago.

Mark Specht from Evanston, Illinois will research ethical considerations of the pest free Stewart Island plan, at the University of Otago.

Christina Walker from Oakland, Tennessee will film a documentary about collaborative efforts of dairy farmers to meet environmental concerns, at AgResearch.

Fulbright US Scholar Awards

Sienna Baskin from New York will research the history, cultural predicates and impact of New Zealand's Prostitution Reform Act, at the University of Otago.

Chris Franklin from the University of Georgia will research statistics literacy standards in New Zealand and US schools, at the University of Auckland.

Gretchen Hoffman from the University of California, Santa Barbara will research the effects of ocean acidification on oysters in New Zealand, at the University of Auckland.

Dan Saunders from the University of Michigan will research domestic violence policies and programmes in New Zealand and the US, at the University of Canterbury.

Fulbright Specialist Awards

Corey Schou (see Arrivals) ►

Arrivals and Departures

Arrivals:

Fulbright Specialist Awards

The University of Waikato will host **Corey Schou** from Idaho State University, who will assist with research development and give seminars on cyber security and cloud computing security. Corey arrives in June. ►

Departures:

Fulbright New Zealand Scholar Awards

Melanie Cheung from the University of Waikato will research the use of computer-based exercises as a therapy for Huntington's disease, at the Brain Plasticity Institute in San Francisco, California. Melanie departs in May.

Ineke Creeze from AUT University will research Seattle Children's Hospital's Patient Navigator system and the use of video remote interpreting services in the US, at Pierce College in Lakewood, Washington. Ineke departs in June.

Debra Wilson from the University of Canterbury will teach a course in international and comparative medical law, ethics and public policy, at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Debra departs in July.

Fulbright-Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga Scholar Award

Rangi Matamua from the University of Waikato will research how astronomy is embedded within the cultural practises of indigenous peoples, at the University of Minnesota in Duluth. Rangi departs in July.

Fulbright-Meg Everton Professional Enhancement Awards in Education

Tere Gilbert from Te Kōhanga Reo o Ngā Kuaka will attend and present at the 2014 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education in Honolulu, Hawai'i and visit indigenous language education programmes in Hawai'i, Alaska and New Mexico. Tere departs in May.

Laura Hawksworth from Tōku Māpihi Maurea Kura Kaupapa Māori will attend and present at the 2014 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education in Honolulu, Hawai'i, and visit indigenous language education programmes in Hawai'i, Alaska and New Mexico. Laura departs in May.

Paula Money Penny from Te Aroha College will attend the 10th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry in Champaign, Illinois and visit narrative therapy courses in Massachusetts. Paula departs in May. ►

For a full list of grantees currently on Fulbright exchanges in New Zealand and the US, please visit www.fulbright.org.nz/grantees-alumni/grantees

Donate to provide additional Fulbright awards in future



For more than six decades, Fulbright New Zealand has offered life-changing Fulbright exchange experiences for New Zealanders and Americans to study, research, teach and present their work in each other's countries.

Our awards are consistently oversubscribed, so each year we turn away many really deserving New Zealand and American applicants because there just are not enough awards due to limited funding. Also, in 2013 and again in 2014 there has been a reduction in US government funding and unfortunately we have had to reduce the number of awards currently on offer. Thus, we invite our alumni and friends to support the provision of additional awards in future.

The balance of the Fulbright New Zealand Trust endowment fund currently sits at \$645,000, thanks in part to the generosity of alumni during our 65th anniversary year. We are aiming for a target of \$1.1 million so that the interest earned from the invested principle can pay for one additional award every year in perpetuity.

The Fulbright New Zealand Trust is a registered charity, so donations to the trust are eligible for a tax credit in New Zealand. Donations made via our American partner the Institute of International Education (IIE), which is a 501(c)(3) organization, are tax-deductible in the US.

See the Donate page of our website – www.fulbright.org.nz/donate – for details of how you can give in various ways. Thanks for your generosity and support!

Words of wisdom from our newest knight

Fulbright alumnus Toby Curtis from Rotorua was appointed as a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in this year's New Year Honours, for services to Māori education. He was formally invested as a knight by the Governor-General in March, joining seven other Fulbright alumni knights and five alumni dames on the New Zealand Order of Merit. 25 years on from his exchange to the US on a Fulbright New Zealand Educational Development Grant, Sir Toby reflects on his exchange experiences and a distinguished career in education.

At the time of applying for your Fulbright award you were principal of a bilingual high school, Hato Petera College. What did you learn about bilingual education on your exchange to the US?

The schools that were engaged in bilingual education tended to reinforce the work that we were undertaking at Hato Petera. There was a noticeable level of commitment and excitement among the staff and students involved in the programme. Whilst visiting a Hispanic school in particular, the principal was so immersed with her staff and students that her time with me was limited. However, due to the wairua dimension permeating throughout the school, I felt relaxed and quite at home.

The First Nation's School in Philadelphia, Mississippi, was rather different. The pupils spoke both their mother tongue and English with ease. The language spoken by the children between class sessions was their native language. The teachers believed that this was important to ensure moral strength and pride in their culture. This enabled them to confidently take their place in the world.

You made the point of interacting with a wide range of American people, including Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics and even Amish. Why was it important for you to do so, and what were the most interesting things you took away from these diverse interactions?

I considered this a prominent aspect of the visit. At that time, gangs and young volatile Māori activists were making their presence known in no uncertain terms at the Waitangi celebrations and elsewhere. This followed on the heels of the Māori land march in the early seventies. I wanted to know how the Native Americans, Blacks, Hispanics and Amish people were treated by the American government and people in general. I pondered whether they were being heard by politicians and if they were appropriately catered for in regard to their natural resources and cultural needs.

I also wanted to assess their natural and spontaneous ability to sing. I was not disappointed! The Hispanics, Blacks and Amish groups produced incredible cadences of harmony. This still resonates with sweetness today, whenever it is recalled by my mind's ear. Those groups really knew how to sing, and indicated their unified strength. The Von Trapp family had impressed upon me that the family who sings together, stays together. Yesterday, I visited several marae in my home area to observe them preparing for the regional kapa haka competitions. The energy and commitment that was exhibited could be channelled into such areas as increasing NCEA success rates and decreasing crime statistics within the tribal area.

Māori language education has become firmly established in New Zealand over the course of your career, with kōhanga reo, kura kaupapa and wānanga thriving. What do you think are the next challenges in Māori education?

If the country is serious about eliminating intergenerational failure educationally among Māori youth, the country can do one of two things: 1) Increase the number of kōhanga reo, kura-ā-iwi, kura kaupapa and wānanga institutions around the country, so that all Māori pupils be given the opportunity to be taught in their mother tongue; or 2) Make each school accountable to ensure a higher level of success, not just with Māori, but all children. The Minister of Education has already moved in this direction by issuing a directive for all schools to achieve an 85% success rate or better.

The outcomes at too many schools are woeful. The Partnership Schools that were established last year were based on a stated output to be achieved. This is necessary in order for government funding to continue the following year.

You were involved in the recent International Summit on the Teaching Profession in Wellington. How important is it, in this day and age, for Māori to embrace and share knowledge with the global community?

It is of utmost importance that Māori not only share knowledge with the global community but also explore the opportunities to become firmly engaged in the economic advancement of iwi products and natural resources such as geothermal development, forestry, oil and mineral exploration, horticultural and agricultural production. Currently, iwi are the major shareholders in the fishing industry. Plans are underway for Māori to be the major stakeholder in the forestry industry over the next five to ten years.

You mentioned after your investiture that the next generation will look up to this great honour. Who were some of the great figures in Māoridom that you looked up to during your own career?

Two outstanding figures were Sir Apirana Ngata and Sir Peter Buck. They paved the way for the survival of the Māori people and its culture. Today the concern is not with biological survival, but cultural survival. What kind of Māori will we be? The use of the Māori tongue must be a prominent feature for all people and cultural strategies. Other major influences were John Rangihau, Hon. Matiu Rata, Dame Whina Cooper, Rt Rev. Bishop Manu Bennett and Major Te Reiwhati Vercoe. They all impressed upon me the attributes of modesty, care for others, and acknowledgment of their efforts. When deemed necessary, one must challenge in a respectful, assertive manner.

And what wisdom would you impart upon emerging young leaders?

Whatever your career pathway, do it to the best of your ability. If you aim for the furthest planet, you may well end up amongst the stars. For young Māori leaders, to be fully effective and acceptable to their people, te reo will need to be their foremost companion. ►

Alumni Voice



Sir Toby Curtis
(photo: US Embassy New Zealand)

"Whatever your career pathway, do it to the best of your ability. If you aim for the furthest planet, you may well end up amongst the stars."



Fulbright New Zealand is jointly funded by the governments of New Zealand and the United States of America.

We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship of additional awards by the following organisations and individuals:



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Awards

Fulbright awards recognise individuals who show academic or professional excellence, leadership potential and the ability to be cultural ambassadors for their country. Fulbright New Zealand offers or administers the following awards and fellowships:

Fulbright-Platinum Triangle Awards in Business

For two emerging New Zealand business leaders to complete an MBA degree at a US institution and gain professional work experience in the US and New Zealand. Valued at up to US\$75,000. Applications close 1 June 2014

Fulbright Science and Innovation Graduate Awards

For promising New Zealand graduate students to undertake postgraduate study or research at US institutions in fields targeted to support growth and innovation in New Zealand. Valued at up to US\$33,000. Applications close 1 August 2014

Fulbright-EQC Graduate Award in Natural Disaster Research

For a promising New Zealand graduate student to undertake postgraduate study or research at a US institution in the field of natural disaster research. Valued at up to US\$33,000. Applications close 1 August 2014

Fulbright-Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga Graduate Award

For a promising New Zealand graduate student to undertake postgraduate study or research at a US institution in a field of indigenous development. Valued at up to US\$33,000. Applications close 1 August 2014

Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Awards

For promising New Zealand graduate students to undertake postgraduate study or research at US institutions in any field. Valued at up to US\$33,000. Applications close 1 August 2014

Fulbright-Wallace Arts Trust Award

For an outstanding mid-career or senior New Zealand visual artist to undertake a ten week residency at Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, California. Valued at up to US\$24,000. Applications close 1 August 2014

Fulbright New Zealand Travel Awards

For New Zealand academics, artists or professionals to visit the US for 12 to 90 days in order to present their work to American audiences. Valued at up to NZ\$5,000. Applications close 1 August 2014 and 1 April 2015

Fulbright-Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga Travel Awards in Indigenous Development

For New Zealand academics, artists or professionals to visit the US for 12 to 90 days in order to present their work on a theme of indigenous development to American audiences. Valued at up to NZ\$5,000. Applications close 1 August 2014 and 1 April 2015

Fulbright Specialist Awards

For New Zealand academic institutions to host US academics, artists or professionals for two to six week programmes of lectures, seminars, workshops, conferences or symposiums. Valued at up to US\$11,700. Applications close 1 August 2014 and 1 April 2015

Fulbright US Scholar Awards

For US academics, artists or professionals to lecture and/or conduct research in New Zealand for three to

five months. Valued at up to NZ\$41,000. Applications close 1 August 2014

Fulbright New Zealand Scholar Awards

For New Zealand academics, artists or professionals to lecture and/or conduct research in the US for three to five months. Valued at up to US\$37,500. Applications close 1 October 2014

Fulbright-Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga Scholar Award

For a New Zealand academic, artist or professional to conduct research and/or lecture in the US for three to five months in a field of indigenous development. Valued at up to US\$37,500. Applications close 1 October 2014

Fulbright-Cognition Scholar Award in Education Research

For a New Zealand educator or researcher to pursue research in the US designed to have an impact on New Zealand early childhood, primary or secondary education and student achievement, for three to five months. Valued at up to US\$37,500. Applications close 1 October 2014

Fulbright-Meg Everton Professional Enhancement Awards in Education

For New Zealand educators in early childhood, primary or secondary education to undertake a professional development activity in the US for 12 to 90 days. Valued at up to NZ\$5,000. Applications close 1 October 2014

Fulbright US Graduate Awards

(including Fulbright-ANZA US Graduate Award) For promising US graduate students to undertake postgraduate study or research in any field at New Zealand institutions. The Fulbright-ANZA US Graduate Award is awarded for study or research related to earthquakes and their repercussions in the fields of environmental studies, public health, geology and engineering. Valued at up to NZ\$33,000. Applications close 15 October 2014

Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Programme for New Zealand Teachers

For highly accomplished New Zealand teachers in primary or secondary schooling to participate in an intensive four-month professional development programme in the US. Applications close 1 November 2014

Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Programme for US Teachers

For highly accomplished American teachers in primary or secondary schooling to participate in an intensive professional development programme in New Zealand for three to four months. Applications close 15 December 2014

Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writer's Residency

For a New Zealand writer of Pacific heritage to carry out work on a creative writing project exploring Pacific identity, culture or history at the University of Hawai'i for three months. Valued at NZ\$30,000. Applications close 1 March 2015

Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowships in Public Policy

For outstanding mid-career US professionals to research and gain firsthand experience of public policy in New Zealand for seven months. Valued at up to NZ\$58,500. Applications close 1 March 2015

For further information and application forms please visit www.fulbright.org.nz/awards or contact Fulbright New Zealand's Programme and Advising Team.